

## GROUND BUR-NUT AT BAKERSFIELD

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There is one plant true to its name,—*Tribulus terrestris*.—for it is the terror of the earth. Ground Bur-nut it is also called. The history of the plant locally seems to be that the first specimens were brought here from Arizona in sheep or cattle cars about 1905. It grew along the Santa Fe railroad track first, but being adapted by nature to traveling it soon spread far over the county, following ways of travel for the most part.

The foliage is rich green and appears more so since it grows in the dry summer. The fruit is a pointed nutlet, having five pairs of thorns, which are just long enough to pierce a bicycle or auto tire. In fact I met it first on my bicycle and shall not forget it soon. In one case an auto tire had five punctures from a single brush with this simple-minded industrious plant. Since it grows right in the dust of the road where there does not seem to be a particle of moisture, you can readily understand how it is so hardy and spreads so rapidly. Perhaps you have already met with my little friend, or you surely will soon on the State highway; or if not, I will send a specimen when a good one appears.

[This plant belongs to the Caltrops Family (ZYGOPHYLLACEAE) and is often called Puncture Weed. It is evidently traveling steadily, since it has been reported in the last four years from a number of widely separated stations in the State. It is a native of Europe, thoroughly aggressive, and is evidently destined to become a troublesome weed.

According to its original meaning, *tribulus* is a sort of instrument resting on three of its iron prongs, a fourth projecting upward. These devices were thrown on the ground and designed to impede the enemy's cavalry. The word has naturally been transferred to thorny or spiny fruits through the idea of resemblance.—W. L. J.]



TAXONOMIC NOTES ON CALIFORNIAN PLANTS.—The yellow Star Tulip of the Yellow Pine belt of the Sierra foothills has long been known as *Calochortus Bentharii* Baker (1874). It was, however, first published, with a figure, by Lindley in 1849 (Jour. Lond. Hort. Soc. 4:81) under the name *Cyclobothra monophylla*. This specific name is not distinctive nowadays, but under the rules of nomenclature the name must nevertheless be *Calochortus monophyllus* Jepson, n. comb.

The plant so long known as *Brodiaea grandiflora* Smith (1811) is in similar case, having been first published as *Hookera coronaria* Salisbury (1806). The correct name, then, is *Brodiaea coronaria* Jepson, n. comb.

Some plants of the genus *Chorizanthe* collected at Monterey have been brought to my attention. These have been called *Chorizanthe pungens* Benth. var. *nivea* Curran, a disposition which the writer accepted in the Flora of California (p. 392). It is now my judgment that this type of thing represents a distinct specific unit and should be designated as *Chorizanthe nivea* Jepson, n. comb.

The somewhat capituliform clusters are borne in dichotomous cymes on rather short branches in *C. nivea*, whereas in typical *C. pungens* the heads are racemosely scattered along elongated branches. The calyx of *C. nivea* is white with yellow tips; the calyx of *C. pungens* is white without yellow markings. The alternate involucre lobes of *C. nivea* have showy white borders; those of *C. pungens* are narrow, dull-colored and inconspicuous. *C. nivea* is erect or suberect in growth; *C. pungens* is trailing. Doubtless other points of difference may appear when these plants are better known.

The above names are published at this time on account of the returning of herbarium specimens of the species under the revised names.—W. L. JEPSON.

ALLOTROPA VIRGATA T. & G., near Lake Tahoe.—Grows similar to *Sarcodes sanguinea*, pushing its way up through decomposed bark, needles and soil, late in July, and during the first two weeks in August, but differing from the Snow Plant in its root formation. The specimens which I am sending taper down until they join thread-like roots. In a radius of fifty feet, beneath a couple of firs (*Abies concolor* Lindl. & Gord.) I counted twenty-four stalks. The thread-like roots appeared to have formed a network underground and the flower stalks appear to spring from these.

I have found specimens only on northern exposures, beneath fir at an elevation of 6,700 feet, or thereabout. This year (1916) is the third summer this particular colony has made its appearance. The largest group has eight flower stalks ranging from four to fifteen inches in height. In their natural state the coloring of these plants is exquisite. They are for all the world like a bit of old-fashioned jewelry, garnets and pearls. The stalk striped garnet and white, the bracts white with occasional faint edge of garnet. The petals are white, the filaments white, the anthers garnet, the ovary garnet, the style white, the stigma garnet. The garnet anthers and stigma being surrounded by the white petals have the appearance of a setting for an old-fashioned ring of garnets and pearls. This species is more delicate and far more beautiful than the Snow Plant.—ADELE DAHL.